

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF  
RISLEY WITH HOPWELL PARISH COUNCIL  
held at the Village Hall on Monday, 21 October 2024**

**Present:** Parish Cllrs P Ancliff, J Hitchcock, S Jarratt, J Lowrie, P McKeown,  
R Monk and M O'Neill

1 member of the public

**Part 1 – Non confidential information**

**24-066 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Croft, T Scott and the Clerk.

**24-067 Declaration of Interest**

The Chair advised that whilst not of a "Disclosable Pecuniary Interest" he did have some interest in the planning agenda item and so from a governance perspective would hand over the Chairman's role to the Vice Chair for Item 14 of the Agenda.

**24-068 Variation of order of business**

Additional item under 11e Investment in replacement Rocking Horse for play area.

**24-069 Dispensations**

None.

**24-070 Public session**

1) Members of the Public

One member of the public was in attendance in relation to the update of the biodiversity plans.

2) Report from Councillors

Cllr W Major reported on material items relating to DCC and EBC:

**DCC:** Some libraries were potentially being considered for closure, he urged people to look at the proposals. Government had provided an extra £3m for pot holes which has resulted in many pot hole repairs recently including the exceptionally large one at Bostocks Lane traffic lights. A report had been issued on the extensive flooding last year and DCC were working with other public bodies e.g. EBC, Environment Agency on its recommendations - notably around flood defences. The increasing high demand for children's services (SEND) post covid was causing an overspend in this area and consequently is a financial pressure on budgets.

**EBC:** Council finances showed a £1.5m surplus some of which materialised from increased charges e.g. on brown bins, car parks etc.

The Local Core Planning document was being reviewed following inspection as it showed a deficit of 800 houses against target, site selection criteria to be clarified and a lack of small sites to be addressed.

**Parish Council:** The feedback on Facebook regarding the planning refusal of fast food outlets on Bostocks Lane had been volumes and very supportive. Cllrs Ancliff and Croft were thanked for bulb planting during October.

**Biodiversity Action Group:** Cllr Ancliff reported the Conservation Group was applying for a grant (up to £2k) from East Midlands Airport Community Fund in support of the Biodiversity Group's actions. Tara, a member of the group, attended to report that the Group was very active and growing. Cllr Ancliff reported that she had led two groups to view the playing fields and also the City area/Rush Meadow proposals including two new semicircular flower beds. Also 105 saplings to be planted were expected shortly from the Woodlands Trust.

3) Police report

There were no reported incidences during the month.

**24-071 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16 September 2024**

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 16 September 2024 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr Lowrie, seconded by Cllr McKeown, unanimously agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**24-072 Exempt items**

None.

**24-073 Chairman's announcements/report**

- Flooding - noted the Parish Forum Flood Risk Management slides had been circulated with slide 16 indicating what Parishes might do to "self help". More locally we are receiving reports from Max Adams, Service Improvement and Sustainability Manager of the County Council. Concern was expressed the Church ditch appeared to be filling up rather than draining away quickly.
- Noted that grants had been applied for from the Derbyshire Environmental Trust, outcome would not be known until January 2025.
- Correspondence from both the Diocese and DWT was still outstanding on the smashed two gates on the Wildlife Trust's boundary crossing the public footpath. The Clerk to be asked to chase these up.
- The overreaching hedge adjacent to the school is expected to be cut back by the County Council.
- A National Lottery grant bid had been made to replace some of the children's playground kit.
- Whilst the damaged Grade 2 listed gate in the Risley Hotel wall is not a parish council responsibility, it was agreed to try to contact the Hotel's area

manager again as it appeared he was back visiting the Hotel in some capacity.

- Noted that our contractors will be hedge cutting in October.

#### **24-074 Clerk's report**

No report available as the Clerk is recuperating from an operation.

#### **24-075 Derbyshire Association of Local Councils**

The circulars had been circulated prior to the meeting and noted.

#### **24-076 Matters for Determination**

- a) Project Gigabit - noted there is an intended investment in building a new full fibre infrastructure in the area which may benefit the local communities.
- b) Painting benches - it was proposed by Cllr Ancliff and seconded by Cllr Lowrie that two benches be repainted (outside of Church and on Second Avenue)
- c) Review of Rush Meadow Agreement. This was approved except for the need for "refundable key deposit" clause.
- d) Christmas lights: quotes and proposals discussed. In principal it was approved but a firm quote was required on the fitting of 2 or 3 lengths of Super Festoon String lights with confirmation around their durability and how many exactly bulbs are on each 52m length.
- e) Rocking Horse replacement - the two quotes received were discussed but before a decision an enhanced quote to supply **and fit** the two options from Proludic were required as way of comparison.

#### **24-077 Finance**

It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

<b>Payee</b>		<b>Total cost</b>	<b>VAT</b>
Fox Grounds Maintenance Ltd	Mowing contract (Sept, invoice 11665)	£450.50	£75.08
Salary and expenses	Sept 2024	£369.61	
HMRC	PAYE – Sept 2024	£81.20	
Risley Memorial Hall	Room Hire	£25.00	

#### **Receipts**

Bank Interest - September:

£67.38 Liquidity Manager Account

£ 5.56 Reserve Account

#### **Half Year Accounts**

These were circulated and discussed. Overall, the position was seen as satisfactory.

#### **24-078 Playground inspections**

Cllr Hitchcock to forward report to the Clerk.

## **24-079 Planning**

### **ERE/1024/0006 - Proposed solar farm, land at Boyah Grange, Potato Pit Lane, Dale Abbey**

- The Solar farm proposal was discussed at length and Council determined it would object on the following basis:

1. The very significant loss of extensive agricultural land which is used to produce food for people and which was more crucial than any additional solar power generation. Indeed, a comprehensive joined up solar energy plan in Erewash does appear totally deficient given the missed massive opportunity for potential roof top solar power on all the Stanton Development site buildings which would obviate the need to use precious agricultural land.
2. The layout and density of the proposed development which is at large scale consuming the whole farm's acreage.
3. The loss of visual amenity in the greenbelt for the public, especially those using the public footpaths traversing this land
4. Access concerns on the single track road both during construction and the ongoing need for maintenance with require access roads across this extensive area.

## **24-080 Matters for information**

- Derbyshire County Council's newsletter – noted.
- Christmas Fayre and Christmas Light switch-on – 7 December 2024.
- Following representations regarding the bus service between Nottingham and Derby, it was agreed a relevant officer from DCC be invited (at a time convenient to them) to meet Parish Councillors on site to discuss the existing live issues regarding late arrivals, communication problems etc
- Elm outside of Greythorpe, Derby Road – noted recent works had probably damaged the roots and it was expected to recover. However, some overhanging branches above the road were in need of trimming which would be EBC responsibility – Cllr Ancliff to contact Dave Bramwell or Scott Cartledge.

## **24-081 Future agenda items**

- Grants – ongoing
- Christmas Lights – 7 December 2024
- Bus Services between Nottingham and Derby
- Review of Policies
- Flooding update
- Biodiversity action plan – ongoing
- NGET Consultation – ongoing

Dates of future meetings: 18 November, 16 December, 20 January 2025, 17 February, 17 March, 21 April and 19 May (AGM and Annual Parish Meeting).

**Part 2 – Confidential items** - None